



Indigenous Youth Voices - Coastal Connections

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Are you 18 – 35 and passionate about ocean conservation and Marine Protected Areas?

Would you like to participate in networking, team building and intergenerational knowledge exchange with your peers and experienced MPA practitioners?

If so, please apply to join the cohort of young professionals who will make “Coastal Connections” at the Fifth International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC5).

Ocean Wise, a global conservation organization headquartered in Vancouver, is leading IMPAC5's Coastal Connections program, with the financial support of the Government of Canada. The program will connect and empower youth to meaningfully participate and contribute to the discussions and outcomes at IMPAC5 and beyond.

Applications will be reviewed by a committee of IMPAC5 host organizations representing Ocean Wise, Parks Canada, and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

IMPAC5 wants to ensure that the voices of a diverse group of younger people are clearly heard at the Congress. Apply below!

Overview

IMPAC5 will take place in Vancouver, Canada, from 3-9 February 2023. IMPAC5 is an opportunity for those in, and aspiring to be in, the marine conservation field to exchange knowledge, experience, and best practices to strengthen the conservation of marine biodiversity and to protect the natural and cultural heritage of the ocean.

One of the three cross-cutting streams of the IMPAC5 program is “The Voice of Young Professionals”. Youth and Indigenous perspectives and participation will be a part of all the discussions at IMPAC5. Our goal is to significantly increase the number of young professional participants from what has been typical at similar international events in the past and to set an example for the future. To achieve this, Congress attendees will include a diverse cohort of young professionals working towards or in careers in marine conservation, with the goal of ensuring that young leaders from all nations, Indigenous groups and other backgrounds will be heard and enriched at IMPAC5.

At IMPAC5 we are committed to diversity, equity and inclusion. When we each bring our unique perspectives – in a spirit of collaboration and interconnectedness – progress and innovation will result. By valuing differences and extending respect to others, we can truly work together to protect the global ocean.

Recognizing the important roles that Indigenous Peoples have modeled in living in harmony with nature, IMPAC5 embraces the need to include Indigenous perspectives, voices and knowledge from around the world; to learn from their diverse cultural practices, knowledge and ways of knowing; and to honor Indigenous rights and responsibilities.

Indigenous young people from northern and/or remote communities are strongly encouraged to apply and will be welcomed as key players in discussions at the Congress.

The Opportunity:

1. IMPAC5 Travel Bursaries

To address the necessity of Indigenous voices at IMPAC5, there is funding available for Indigenous applicants. Successful Indigenous Canadian applicants will receive financial support that covers costs associated with:

- Round trip economy air or rail fare to Vancouver, and back home;
- Accommodation in Vancouver from January 30th to February 10th;
- Registration costs for IMPAC5;
- Full coverage of costs related to Connection 2 – limited number of places available.

2. The IMPAC5 Youth and Young Professionals Coastal Connections

To help ensure the success of the Young Professionals Stream at IMPAC5, a Deep Dive enrichment program of three “connections” is being launched. The first connection has unlimited registration, the other two are limited by the capacity of the facilities and resources.

Connection #1: A series of three virtual sessions leading up to IMPAC5 that will introduce you to your peers and provide an overview of IMPAC5’s history, goals and agenda. Open to all Youth and/or Young Professional Congress registrants.

Connection #2: A two-day, in-person, team-building and networking event to be held at an exciting offsite venue approximately two hours from Vancouver. Capacity is limited by the facility size. Further details on the venue will be published shortly.

Connection #3: An intergenerational knowledge exchange/mentoring program during IMPAC5 that includes a networking breakfast and an evening event. Capacity is limited by the number of mentors available.

Participation Criteria

For Connections 1, 2 and 3, you must be:

1. 18-35 years of age at the time of the Congress;
2. proficient in English and/or French / Indigenous language.

To be a recipient of a travel bursary, you must:

1. be a resident of Canada;
2. identify as an Indigenous youth or young professional.

How to Apply for the IMPAC5 Youth and Young Professionals Coastal Connections

1. Complete the required fields in the [Application Form](#).
2. Submit your CV, highlighting your experience in marine conservation
3. Submit an [Application Form](#).

Responsibilities and Expectations

Youth selected to participate in Connection 1 are expected to:

- Participate in the three 90-minute virtual sessions (hosted in December and January, dates TBD).
- Participate in Congress activities, including welcome events and Youth Pavilion activities.
- Engage in networking activities to share their IMPAC5 learning and build connections within their home communities after the Congress.

Youth selected to participate in Connection 2 are expected to:

- Participate in the three 90-minute virtual sessions (hosted in December and January, dates TBD).
- Participate in the two-day, in-person networking and team building program from January 31 – Feb 1, 2023 at the location approximately two hours from Vancouver.
- Participate in the intergenerational knowledge exchange program at IMPAC5.
- Participate in Congress activities, including welcome events and Youth Pavilion activities.
- Engage in networking activities to share their IMPAC5 learning and build connections within their home communities after the Congress.

Youth selected to participate in Connection 3 are expected to:

- Participate in the three 90-minute virtual sessions (hosted in December and January, dates TBD)
- Participate in Congress activities, including welcome events and Youth Pavilion activities.
- Participate in the intergenerational knowledge exchange program at IMPAC5.
- Engage in networking activities to share their IMPAC5 learning and build connections within their home communities after the Congress.

Deadline to Apply: The call for applications will close on **Monday, November 14 at 11:59 pm PST.**

Please submit your application through this [Application Form](#)

Successful applicants will be notified by email in November 2022 and provided details for participation in their Connections.

If you are selected for Connection 2, you will be provided with additional registration instructions.